Reader Letters

I'd like to thank FARM SHOW for its report last summer (Vol. 11, No. 4) on my experimental big square baler. Thanks to your report, I'm now negotiating with a European company that wants to manufacturer the baler. They flew me over to Europe to work with their engineers and supplied development funds to make some needed improvements in the design. If we can work out a deal, we hope to have the baler on the market within the next couple years.

Charles Siebenga
211 8th St., #2
Belgrade, Mont. 59714
(ph 406 388-7681)

When it is necessary to cut pipe at an angle to fit against a flat surface, hold the pipe at the desired angle and dip it in a pail of water. The measurement of length needed along the long surface

can be used as a guide when dipping. The T-bevel and level help guide the pipe at the proper angle. A chalk or pencil line around the pipe at the edge of the water can be the guide for cutting to make a good fit.

Robert Tupper
608 E. Elder
Canton, S. Dak. 57013

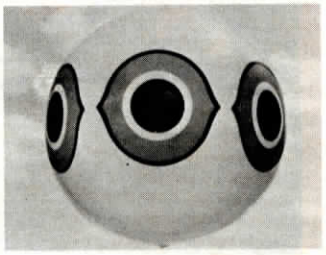
I read in the last issue of FARM SHOW the letter from Mrs. Dave Befus, Caracjou, Alb., regarding her "best and worst buy" wedding ring. Credit her with having a smart husband for not wearing his ring. With his occupations of farmer, mechanic, cowboy, sawmill builder and welder, he has a lot of places where he could have problems with the ring.

I am in safety work and see a lot of people who have their ring finger partially or totally removed. Last Christmas, a neighbor who never wears his wedding ring put it on before going to church services. He didn't remove it upon returning home. A couple days later, he jumped down from his tractor and caught the ring on a projection. He won't have to worry about putting the ring on next Christmas — his ring finger is gone!

I see so many accidents caused by tie strings on hooded sweatshirts, belts, scarves, rings and other items of wear that get caught in equipment. I encourage people who buy sweatshirts to remove the tie strings as soon as they buy the clothing.

Rollin D. Schnieder
Extension Safety Specialist
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Neb.

We've taken over sales and distribution of the "Scare Eye" bird scaring balloon that's made in Japan and which was first featured in FARM SHOW. The balloons, which hang from a pole or rope, have a reflective eye that appears to



move. They are 99% effective at eliminaing pest birds when used at the rate of about six per acre. We've had the most interest from fruit and sweet corn growers. They sell for $14.90 apiece.

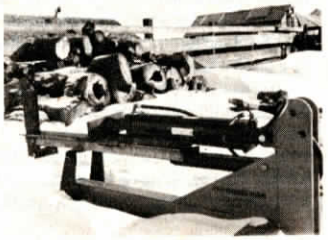
Frank Pollock
Hartmann's Plantation Inc.
P.O. Box E.
Grand Junction, Mich. 49056
(ph 616 253-4281)

We'd like to let FARM SHOW readers know that we are now importing the Geringhoff cornhead-shredder from Germany that was first featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 12, No. 3 issue. Designed to fit any combine, this "Cadillac of cornheads" incorporates a stalk shredder that shreds stalks as it picks the ears, eliminating the need to make a second trip over the field to chop stalks before performing tillage work. The 6-row Geringhoff cornhead-shredder requires just 12 hp of additional power to shred stalks because it uses shredding rollers that simply replace conventional snapping rollers, unlike other cornhead shredders that use blade-type shredders.

The Geringhoff cornhead-shredder will be available through dealers in Canada in 1988. Starting in 1989, we plan to distribute the header to dealers in the U.S. The new header sells for about 20% more than a conventional cornhead.

Brent Falls
Ontario Farm Machinery Agency Ltd.
446 10th St.
Hanover, Ontario N4N 1P9
Canada
(ph 519 364-4413)

Business is booming for my tractor-pulled tile plow. My customers tell me they've put in from 10,000 to more than 70,000 ft. of field drainage tile with almost no problems at all. One customer in Waterloo, Iowa, liked the plow



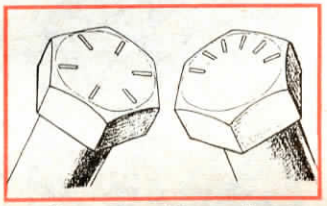
so much he added a wood-splitting attachment to it so he could split wood with it during the off season. The wood splitter makes use of the tiler's hydraulic cylinder and requires no permanent modification. Switches back to tiling in a matter of minutes.

Don Wurdinger
909 4th NW
Waverly, Iowa 50677
(ph 319 352-3911)

I use old steel fence posts to make inexpensive round bale feeders. It doesn't matter if the posts are straight or bent. I just weld them together into a square big enough for the largest round bale. Using old posts, it costs only about $10 to build. I use the edge of a tractor loader bucket to lift up the feeders.

Pete Volchess
11615 Fairview Rd.
Newark, Ohio 43055

I want to commend you for the story in your last issue warning readers about counterfeit bolts. This is a serious issue not only for farmers but also for those of us in the manufacturing sector. I would like to help clarify some of the concerns



regarding grade markings and the properties which should accompany those markings.

In the drawing that accompanied your story, the example on the left with the six radial marks equally spaced around the periphery of the head is the specified designation for SAE grade 8 as you indicate. This fastener should have a minimum tensile strength of 150,000 psi. The example on the right in your sketch shows a head marking of six radial lines equally spaced around half the periphery. This is the specified marking for SAE grade 8.2, not a counterfeit mark for softer fasteners as you indicate. Fasteners bearing this headmarking should also provide 150,000 psi tensile strength. The difference is that grade 8.2 fasteners are made with a boron alloy and should not be used under conditions where they will be exposed to operating temperatures of 500° or more. For example, Deere & Co. does not use grade 8.2 fasteners on engine components such as exhaust manifolds. Counterfeit bolts can look like either grade 8 or 8.2 bolts. The problem is that these manufacturers use materials not acceptable for the marking displayed or they do not properly process the fasteners to provide the properties specified.

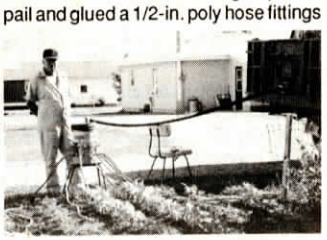
Similar conditions may exist in the lower strength SAE grades 5 and 5.2. As you indicate, the Grade 5 fastener should be marked with three radial lines equally spaced around periphery of the head. Grade 5.2 will have those same three marks equally spaced around slightly less than one half of the periphery. Grade 5 and 5.2 fasteners should meet 120,000 psi tensile strength.

Your story also indicated that carriage bolts and machine bolts carry no slash marks. I'd like to point out that they should carry the same grade markings outlined above, as should plow bolts and flange bolts.

True counterfeit fasteners are very difficult to detect without relatively sophisticated and expensive test equipment. Your closing comment is probably the best advice for most end users. "Buy from a reputable supplier!"

Marshall Lawson
General Supervisor
Fastener Manufacturing
John Deere Harvester Works
Moline, Ill. 61265

Here's how I made a "Poor Man's Irrigation System" for my garden. I drilled 10 holes in the bottom of a 5-gal. plastic pail and glued a 1/2-in. poly hose fittings



into each hole with a glue gun. I fastened the pail to an old chair to make a stand. A 1/2-in. length of garden hose runs from each hole to a row in the garden. This system lets me apply 500 gal. of water to the garden in an hour using a truck-mounted tank.

Harvey Stark
Box 276
Mossbank, Sask.
Canada

We've had great response from FARM SHOW's reports on our tire slicing machine that turns old tires into rugged mats for use as truck bed liners, non-slip floors for livestock trailers, mud flaps, machine shop mats, milking parlor mats and deluxe welcome mats. We wanted

to let your readers know about our new hand-operated tire slicer (see photo). It does just as good a job as a powered slicer and costs much less. An energetic couple can turn an average discarded automobile tire into $25- $30 worth of products in an hours time using tools we've developed to weave the tire strips into mats. A total package, that includes the hand slicing machine, sells for $830 (includes a video that shows how to get started).

Ken Winans
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Binghamton, N.Y. 13902
(ph 607 722-0054)